

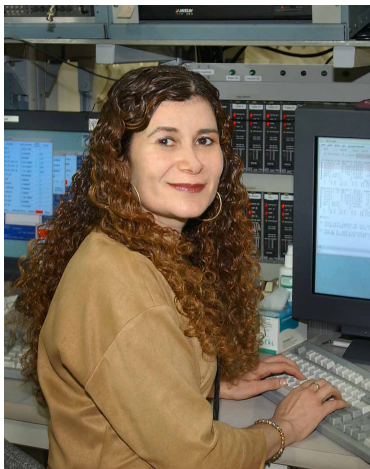
Users' Executive Committee and NSLS Town Meetings

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It was an exciting time at the NSLS during 2002. The announcement of the new Center for Functional Nanomaterials (CFN), which will be built adjacent to the NSLS, will undoubtedly invigorate the science at the facility. But even more exciting is the proposal for a major NSLS upgrade in the not too distant future. The Users' Executive Committee (UEC), as well as many leaders of the user community, has been providing comments and suggestions for what we would like to see in what would be a valuable resource for many different and new areas of science. This proposed upgrade would play an important and critical role, especially in the very strong scientific communities of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions of the United States.

However, it is also a challenging time for the NSLS. Security regulations have been tightening up, as I'm sure most of you have felt. The directors of the four Department of Energy (DOE) synchrotron facilities, in coordination with the Office of Basic Energy Sciences (BES), have drafted a new user access policy statement that will change the structure of some Participating Research Teams (PRTs) and beamline support. A much more detailed policy for the NSLS is currently under development. In addition, a Proposal and Safety System (PASS), is under development by the User Administration office, which will replace the current systems for general user proposals and safety reviews and will reduce the lead-time between proposal submission and scheduling cycles significantly. My colleagues on the UEC, along with very conscientious members of the user community, have been actively involved in all of these projects to make sure they evolve with you, the user, as the main focal point. I'd like to acknowledge them for their very hard work



and enthusiasm. As always, we welcome your thoughts on any of these issues and we will convey them accordingly.

These are also challenging times in terms of the budgets allocated to science in the United States. The UEC, along with the users organizations of the other DOE-run synchrotron facilities, is vigorously continuing its lobbying efforts to increase the Office of Science's budget, which funds the operations of these synchrotrons, and thus would increase funding for the light sources. With the current problems

in the economy and the increasing uncertainties for the future, it is vital that we keep up our mission and impress upon our lawmakers how crucial our research is for the future of science, technology and the economy.

Most importantly, the UEC, along with NSLS management, is reviewing ways to improve the overall safety record at the NSLS. The increased number of inexperienced users, who may only spend a few days at the facility, together with perceived lack of attention to safety guidelines by users, calls for a change in the overall culture and working habits at the NSLS. We, as users, have always appreciated the efforts of NSLS staff to place our experiments as the first priority and make the safety procedures as efficient as possible. However, this requires us, the users, to have respect for possible hazards to ourselves as well as to our fellow experimentalists on the floor and be less cynical towards these safety procedures.

Lastly, the UEC has a new website: www.nslsuec.org. Please visit our website for detailed information on our activities. Finally, the UEC wishes you a SAFE and FRUITFUL year!